

R-8

SUPER MAJORITY

WHEREAS, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted “to direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church;” and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional and Legal Committee of the ELCA Church Council recommended that “any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associate in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption;” and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council voted 19-10 to delete this provision and is recommending rules of procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which would require only a simple majority vote to change ELCA standards to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships; and

WHEREAS, a two-thirds majority vote is usually required for major decisions including the adoption of an ELCA social statement and for amendments to the ELCA constitution and bylaws; and

WHEREAS, a decision to change church teaching and policy to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships holds the potential to be very divisive in ELCA synods and congregations and to cause both membership and financial losses for synods and congregations; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is seeking ways to make decisions on a consensus basis rather than by close votes; and

WHEREAS, a super majority vote – such as a two-thirds majority – would require an overwhelming majority of Churchwide Assembly voting members to make such a significant change to church teaching and practice; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will adopt its rules for the assembly and could set a two-thirds majority for adoption of any changes to standards for pastors and other rostered leaders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to add the following provision to the rules of procedures for the assembly: “Any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption.”

Submitted by: Rev. Daniel Metzger, Ms. Mary Howe, Rev. Steven Erickson, Rev. Bret Reedy, Rev. Frederick Baltz, Rev. Keith Forni, Mr. George Vodden, Rev. Todd Peterson, Rev. Bryce Formwalt, Rev. Carl Rasmussen, Ms. Jean Margheim, Rev. Rodney Juell, Ms. Jo Boehmer, Mr. Dale Fiste, Rev. Douglas Johnson, Mr. Michael Krupa, Rev. Charles Steinke

Contact Person: Rev. Carl Rasmussen
Date Received: April 7, 2009

Action of the Resolution Committee

Date of Action: April 13, 2009
Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution and to allow this resolution (R-8) to serve as a substitution for the identical resolution R-9 and similar resolution R-10